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IH-Group eyes opening of Rota resort/casino in '25



By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A South Korean-based company, IH-Group, aims to open a casino/resort on Rota come 2025. However, despite

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
File photo of Rota Resort & Country Club in Sinapalo, Rota.

international news articles reporting that IH-Group has started renovating the Rota Resort & Country Club, the Department of Public Lands clarifies that this is not the case as the property remains up for proposals.

According to international news articles, IH-Group is currently renovating the Rota Resort & Country Club with the plan to open a casino, a

276-room hotel, and a water-park as early as 2025.

However, in an interview with DPL Secretary Teresita See **IH-GROUP** on Page 4

Legislative Bureau suspends services

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Legislative Bureau has terminated essential services following a letter from the CNMI administration informing the bureau that they will no longer be receiving the remaining \$1.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act monies allocated by the previous administrator. Last week, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Finance Sec-

» After it can no longer access \$1.8M in ARPA funds



Tenorio

retary Tracy Norita wrote to Legislative Bureau director Perry P. Tenorio stating that there were no sufficient ARPA funds left for the Legislature.

During the previous administration, former governor Ralph DLG Torres allocated \$3.5 million See **SERVICES** on Page 4

Hundreds take part in Day of Unity

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of community members attended the

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence's Day of Unity event that celebrated Domestic Violence Aware-

ness Month last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

The fun-filled event, which adopted the theme "Solidarity See **HUNDREDS** on Page 4

RACQUEL FLOYD
Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse team poses for a photo during the Day of Unity event last Saturday at CPA Airport Field.



CNMI getting over \$11M more to modernize drinking water system

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI is receiving another \$11 million in federal funds to repair and modernize its public drinking water system, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday about the \$11,007,000 in fiscal year 2025 allotments for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

He said it is for the fourth of five years in the Biden/Harris administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58, which See **DRINKING** on Page 4



Sablan

INSIDE



LOCAL

Stepping up in its efforts to combat pet overpopulation and improve the health of fellow furry residents, the Saipan Humane Society will be holding a spay/neuter clinic scheduled for October.

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WORLD

Since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon, Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants have clashed along the border while the Lebanese army has largely stood on the sidelines.

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LIFE & STYLE

A federal appeals court judge has ruled to keep Sean "Diddy" Combs locked up while he makes a third bid for bail in his sex trafficking case, which is slated to go to trial in May.

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Local

AT MBN TOWN HALL FORUM

Delegate candidates share thoughts on CW phase out

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
rxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Second of a series

The five candidates running for the CNMI delegate seat in the U.S. House of Representatives

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also answered questions about the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program during the Marianas Business Network town hall forum last Wednesday at Tom Yum Restaurant & Karaoke Bar in San Antonio.

CNMI Republican Party bet Kimberlyn King-Hinds responded that there is a need to address workforce stabilization that addresses the CW program that will end in 2029.

She said she'll be advocating for a policy that addresses the CNMI's unique economic challenges, busi-

ness climate, and remote geography. She added that she doesn't believe in the CW cap due to life in Typhoon Alley and that worker numbers will always change and would need flexibility.

King-Hinds said that large and small business owners are unhappy with the CW application processing times. She also wonders why Guam can provide temporary Labor certifications and the CNMI can't. She also wants a tailored policy where businesses can have access to work-



RACQUEL FLOYD

The Marianas Business Network's town hall forum was held at Tom Yum Restaurant & Karaoke Bar last Wednesday night. On the table, from left, Liana Hofschneider, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Edwin K. Propst, Jim Rayphand, and John Oliver Gonzales.

ers that can lead to a dynamic business environment.

Jim Rayphand, an independent candidate, said the CNMI needs to ensure data is collected on what the workforce needs are and number of CW workers needed to present a compelling case to Washington, D.C. He added that five years is not enough time to end the CW program. He also wants to strengthen the local workforce by ensuring funding is allocated to apprenticeship training for jobs the CWs are currently filling. Rayphand wants to create a workforce partnership plan with neighboring islands such as Palau and the Federation States of Micronesia.

Liana Hofschneider, another independent candidate, shared that from her past experience as an immigration officer, the CNMI will never have a plan to address the end of the CW program. She said it's un-American to take over immigration from the CNMI without any boots on the ground. Hofschneider also wants a portion of U.S. lottery earnings allocated to the CNMI.

Edwin K. Propst, who is running under the Democratic Party of the NMI, wants to champion Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (D-MP) House Resolution 560 to take care of long-term workers and investors. He also wants to work with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and present in Guam a visa specific to the Marianas already supported by Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh F. Tenorio. Propst said it is critical to work together with Guam so that both U.S. territories can benefit in a more effective way

of recruiting foreign workers.

Another independent candidate, John Oliver Gonzales, said that anything that must be developed or enacted is driven by data and emphasized that data is the cornerstone. He wants to establish a CNMI-only policy which stabilizes source markets for human capital and skilled laborers for tourism and workers to help diversify the economy. Gonzales urged the use of labor data from the last two decades to inform the U.S. delegate for a more customized and more robust legislation before 2029. He also wants the CNMI to balance the need for peace and security in the Info-Pacific region.

The delegate candidates were then asked with Washington, D.C.'s primary focus on defense right now how will they ensure the steady flow of federal dollars to the CNMI?

Hofschneider spoke on the CNMI's unique relationship with the U.S. and believes federal funding will trickle down to the CNMI and she promised to funnel money to the islands for higher a standard of living. She said she will work to make the U.S. sympathetic because their past policies have negatively affected the CNMI.

Gonzales said that the CNMI must welcome an economic partnership with the U.S. military in a sustainable way and make it a stable, long-term anchor tenant. He wants to invest in job opportunities for locals and be able to compete for military contracts. Gonzales said the National Defense Authorization Act makes up the bulk of military funding and calls on the U.S. government to revisit market valuation of leased lands and

oceans for fair market value. He also wants the federal government to deposit up to 50% of those funds in a reserve account for future generations.

Propst believes in leveraging the geography of the CNMI as the tip of the spear against foreign aggression in its negotiations with the U.S. He also wants to work with partners to secure more funding for the CNMI. He used the Tinian Divert Airfield project as an example of military funding and how quickly Tinian's economy turned around because of it.

For Rayphand, military and defense activities ensure flow of funds to the CNMI and believes supporting the military leads to more federal funding. He wants to examine which federal grants the CNMI is already a part of and make sure it remains included in them. Rayphand also wants to work with federal partners to address the unique needs of the CNMI in reference to local match needs. He said local match for funds is a barrier and he wants to seek waivers for most match requirements. He also wants to look for new funding for new industries, particularly for agriculture.

King-Hinds mentioned that she dealt with federal partners for 10 years and knows how the actual process works. She said DOD will not spend money when there is no impact and that the CNMI is about to be awarded the America the Beautiful grant for the first time and that this would have less impact on Saipan and Rota. She wants to change the rules of the grant so funding will impact all of the CNMI and not just Tinian.

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DPS chief takes blame on initial silence in death of K-9 officers

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas is taking the blame for not immediately making public the tragic deaths of K-9 officers Beni and Boss after they were left inside a police vehicle that had its air-conditioning unit malfunction last Sept. 8.

"I am taking full responsibility for my action of not notifying the community. But from here on, I will continue to be transparent of what's been going on with this department," he said during a media conference last Wednesday at DPS Central in Susupe.

He shared that since the incident, new policies have already been implemented such as K-9 handlers be-



CHRYSTAL MARINO
Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas during the media conference last Wednesday at DPS Central in Susupe.

ing required to check on their K-9 officers on the vehicles they left them in every 10 minutes.

In regards to the two K-9 handlers of Beni and Boss, Macaranas said should they be sent back as K-9 handlers they will have to go through another training.

"They will continue to go back to training and hone their skills so they can be a handler. In that way, we can also implement the new changes in policies to them so that they can be more effective in caring for the well-being of the K-9 officers."

Macaranas also said disciplinary actions would've been initiated on the two K-9 handlers if DPS found that they neglected Beni and Boss.

"But in this instance, it's not their neglect that contributed to the death of the dogs. We made a

thorough investigation so that way we can cover every avenue. And I assure the community that it was not the handlers' mishandling of the K-9s that caused their death. It's mechanical and I will continue to stick to that statement because we found that the vehicle (the A/C unit) failed at a time when it should be working, when those dogs were in the vehicle."

When asked whether or not DPS plans to get more K-9 officers, Macaranas said there is a plan, but it won't be done anytime soon.

"Like I said, we need to re-evaluate the program so that way we would not repeat this kind of incident again. That's the reason why

we're not in a rush. We have two K-9 officers currently that are still working and we're taking steps so that those K-9 officers are well taken care of and the handlers will continue to be more adaptive to their practices as to taking the well-being of the canine dogs."

Macaranas said that the hope is that the tragic deaths of Beni and Boss will not be repeated again.

"I'm going to continue taking full responsibility because I know how the program will come about. The program will never be a perfect program. There's going to be faults, but we're still going to have to take some sort of responsibility if those faults come about."

HUNDREDS

From page 1

for Safety," was participated in by various organizations and government agencies that set up their booths and engaged on activities, namely Rotaract Club of Saipan, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Bookmobile, Micronesian Legal Services Corp., Division of Youth Services-Child Protective Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.-Community Guidance Center, Northern Marianas College's The Club of Artists, Karidat Social Services, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., CNMI Young Pacific Leaders, Office of Attorney General-Criminal Division, Northern Marianas Athletics, CNMI Department of Public Safety, CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

A passport was issued during registration wherein attendees had to complete stamps from all the booth exhibitors to claim a prize such as a shirt and toys.

Other than the booths' engaging activities, the attendees enjoyed free carabao rides and Marianas High School's remote robotic cars.

The Day of Unity also celebrated cultures coming together, wherein attendees enjoyed performances from Polksai Cultural Dancers, Polynesian Cultural Dance Performers, Kagman High School Refaluwasch Club, Saipan Southern High School Nesian Club, Marianas High School Cultural Club, Saipan Awaodori Team, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, Joshua Paradise, Profound Bandits, Tipiyew Bwi-bwiis, and the Voices of the Marianas.

Richard Baleares and Joshua Q. Castro served as the event's emcees

who presented talking points that emphasized on the event's theme this year, "Solidarity for Safety."

The talking points include the purpose of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is to honor loved ones by remembering and mourning lives taken by domestic violence and to celebrate the progress made by advocates, organizations, and communities over the years.

It also seeks to foster unity as DVAM promotes a sense of unity and solidarity among individuals and communities. It encourages people to come together across diverse backgrounds, acknowledging that domestic violence affects everyone regardless of age, gender identity, ethnicity, faith, or socioeconomic status.

Meanwhile, "safety" from the theme was also explained wherein the letter "s" stands for support which means believing victims and survivors, validating their experiences, and acknowledging the impact of trauma. It means standing together and offering unwavering assistance to victims and survivors of domestic violence. It's about providing a safe space where they can heal and find the strength to move forward.

Meanwhile, the "a" stands for amplify, which is to increase the volume on the issue of domestic violence, victims, and survivors, no matter where they are or what their circumstance, need to hear and feel our support. Ending domestic violence requires actions like speaking up and bringing support directly to victims and survivors. It also call for igniting open dialogue about domestic violence to foster communities where victims and survivors feel safe to share their experiences and seek help without fear of judgment or blame.

The "f" stands for freedom and it's

about honoring the ability of victims and survivors to make their own decisions and control their own lives. Victims and survivors need choices and the freedom to make choices that impact their lives and the lives of their dependents.

The "e" is for empowering victims and survivors and giving them back power. Victims and survivors experience a total loss of power over their lives. That's why it's important to encourage them to reclaim control and make informed choices by equipping them with supportive resources for professional help, legal support, and counseling. By honoring their choices, it ultimately helps them regain their autonomy, power, and confidence. Thus, it's imperative to continue to uplift victims and survivors by celebrating their progress and acknowledging their resilience on the path to healing.

The "t" stands for trust and building trust with victims and survivors as it increases the chances of them reaching out for support or reporting the abuse. Trust can be built by doing what is right, showing genuine concern, and fostering a culture of respect and inclusivity. This ensures efforts to address domestic violence are sincere, consistent, and effective.

Lastly, "Y" stands for you are an important part of the movement to end domestic violence. It means everyone is needed to build up solidarity, voice, and action to create a CNMI free of abuse.

NMCADSV would like to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Commonwealth Ports Authority, CNMI Department of Public Safety, and Ben Ki for their generous contributions to the Day of Unity event that celebrated Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

the federal government has ever made.

Thompkins said the EPA's oversight role of the SRF programs along with a commitment to provide technical assistance to states and communities is critical to ensuring that states meet the BIL priorities.

She said EPA regions should ensure the state SRF managers are aware that, per the BIL statute, state match remains 20% for the 2025 BIL general supplemental.

and \$9,075,000, respectively.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$50 billion to the EPA to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems.

Anita Maria Thompkins, EPA Drinking Water Infrastructure Development Division director, in a memorandum to Water Division directors SRF Branch Chiefs Regions 1-10 on Tuesday, stated that it is the single largest investment in clean water that

SERVICES

From page 1

to the Legislative Bureau but about \$1.8 million had yet to be disbursed.

"We regret to inform you that we have reviewed the ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund spending and determined that there are not sufficient funds available to pay available budget amounts not already disbursed on behalf of the CNMI Legislature," said the letter.

Tenorio, in a letter to the Legislature, stated that because they no longer have access to these ARPA funds, they will have to terminate essential services.

"Following the governor and the Department of Finance secretary's correspondence informing us that the bureau will no longer have access to the remaining ARPA Fund balance of \$1.8 million, we are compelled to take immediate actions to prevent the bureau from incurring unfunded liabilities. The situation is of significant concern. Effective immediately, aside from personnel and utilities, all recurring monthly services will be discontinued. This will have a critical impact on the Bureau's operational capacity, particularly in the area of communica-

tions infrastructure," said Tenorio.

Specifically, Tenorio explains that internet, landlines, and cellular services will cease, rendering the bureau unable to broadcast legislative sessions and committee meetings.

"This will severely restrict transparency and public access. Additionally, the discontinuation of internet service will halt all communication and research capabilities, and without operational landlines, both internal and external coordination will be significantly disrupted. Office equipment will no longer receive or send email communication, further crippling day-to-day functions," he said.

Although the bureau is still trying to work with the presiding legislative officers on this matter, they have no choice but to cease normal operations, Tenorio says.

"We are actively working with the presiding officers on this matter, and we have communicated today a formal request to the administration to rescind its decision and reinstate the bureau's ARPA allocation. However, until such a reversal occurs, there are no available funds to continue normal operations. As such and effectively immediately, we will notify all vendors to cease services to avoid incurring additional unfunded liabilities," said Tenorio.

IH-GROUP

From page 1

Santos (along with confirmation from DPL's real-estate division) she said that the property remains under RFP (request for proposals) with a closing date of Nov. 10.

Santos explained that the request for proposals in regard to the Rota Resort property was announced back in August and initially ended in September. However, DPL decided to extend the announcement to November.

Saipan Tribune learned that IH-Group has submitted a proposal for the Rota Resort property.

Meanwhile, in a statement from Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), he said the company was granted a conditional casino and internet gaming license in July after paying the Rota Casino Commission about \$200,000.

The company, in order to keep its conditional license, will have to pay the Rota Casino Commission \$200,000 a year.

This license will allow IH-Group to conduct onsite and online casino operations on Rota.

However, Manglona explains that the licenses are conditional.

Saipan Tribune also learned that IH-Group's future plans also include establishing two more casinos and an online gaming operation. IH-Group already has a venue with five baccarat tables, one blackjack table, and 30 slot machines on the island.

In related news, in a statement from Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner Mariano Taitano, he says he hopes the casino industry on Rota succeeds.

"I just hope that Rota casino industry thrives and succeeds for the betterment of our brothers and sisters of the beautiful island of Luta," he said.

IH-Group is the Korea-based company that signed a \$150-million investment contract with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC two years ago to continue the construction of IPI's hotel-casino on Saipan, and operate it.

DRINKING

From page 1

U.S. Congress passed in 2021, and is an increase from the \$10,160,000 awarded to the CNMI last year.

According to the EPA, of the \$2.6 billion in total SRF funds for FY 2025, Guam is receiving \$10,084,000 in SRF, while American Samoa and Virgin Islands are getting \$7,181,000

Saipan Humane Society launches Oct. spay/neuter clinic



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Visiting specialists, along with Saipan Humane Society's Ruby Ma, provide care to several furry friends during the last spay and neuter clinic.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Stepping up in its efforts to combat pet overpopulation and improve the health of fellow furry residents, the Saipan Humane Society will be holding a spay/neuter clinic scheduled this October.

In a press release, they shared that with the generous backing from the Banfield Foundation and the Mars Ambassador Program, the clinic will run for two separate sessions—Oct. 14-17 and Oct. 22-25, 2024. Pet owners across Saipan are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to protect their pets and contribute to the community's overall animal health.

Held at the SHS facility in Garapan, the clinic aims to make the procedure accessible to all, regardless of financial constraints. Banfield Foundation is offering financial assistance for those in need.

"No pet should be left behind because of cost concerns," SHS stated in a press release, urging pet owners to reach out for surgery sponsorships. Scheduling for the event is already open, and you can sign up at www.saipanhumane.org or contact SHS at clinic@saipanhumane.org.

SHS also shared some important guidelines for owners to ensure your pet is prepared for surgery: No food after dinner the night before, but water is allowed. Additionally, SHS does offer medication for anxious pets to make the process smoother. On the day of surgery, dogs should arrive with properly fitted collars, and cats must be secured in carriers or



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Humane Society's spay and neuter program is aimed to help address the stray overpopulation on Saipan and promoting healthier lives for pets.

mesh laundry bags. Following surgery, pet owners will be provided with clear instructions for post-op care. Reducing activity and preventing pets from licking the surgery site are essential, and SHS will have cones available if needed. The spay and neuter program is aimed to help address the stray overpopulation on Saipan and promoting healthier lives for pets. Slots for the clinic are expected to fill quickly, so early registration is recommended. "Don't miss this chance to make a difference for your furry friends and help curb Saipan's pet overpopulation problem," said SHS in the press release.



Slots for Saipan Humane Society's spay and neuter program are expected to fill quickly, so early registration is recommended.

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NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
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Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhc.gov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Lulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **Zenie P. Mafnas**
Corporate Director

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PUBLIC NOTICE
October 14, 2024

Due to an increased volume of Pre-Qualification application packets received to date; as well as, the limited level of funds and the lack of funds currently available, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is notifying the general public that it will **SUSPEND** accepting new applications for its Homeownership Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program effective immediately as of the date of this publication.

NMHC may resume accepting applications if, and when, funds for the program become available and reaches at an acceptable level for commitment.

Thank you and for more information, you may contact the NMHC Mortgage Division at (670) 234-6866/9447 or via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp.

/S/ **Zenie P. Mafnas**
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Penny dreadful? America slowly makes its move to a cashless economy

It used to be common to see Let's Make a Deal contestants leave the TV game show smiling after winning \$100 for every coin they could pull out of their purse or pocket. But as America moves ever closer to becoming a cashless society, it's just as likely to see contestants who couldn't scrape up a dime.

About 41% of Americans no longer use cash to make most of their weekly purchases, according to a Pew Research Center survey. That's a huge jump from the 24% who said they rarely used cash in 2015. Conversely, only 14% of Americans make almost all their purchases with cash, compared with 24% in 2015.

As one might expect, 71% of adults older than 50 are likely to have some cash on them, compared with 45% of those under 50. Americans with lower incomes are also more reliant on cash. Roughly 30% of people with household incomes below \$30,000 a year use cash for almost all of their weekly purchases, compared with 6% among those living in households earning \$50,000 or more a year.

While such statistics suggest where this country is headed, there's less certainty as to how or when it will get there. Before it phases out bills and coins, the federal government must create a cashless replacement similar to debit and credit cards or digital wallet apps such as Zelle, PayPal, Apple Pay, Venmo, or Cash App.

America's new digital currency would replace all coins and paper money. But unlike privately held cryptocurrency, which businesses aren't legally required to accept, a central bank digital currency (CBDC) overseen by the Federal Reserve Board would be legal tender that can be used to make purchases in any store or restaurant.

The Bahamas rolled out the world's first central bank digital currency in 2020. China, Japan, and Sweden have begun digital currency trials, and the Bank of England and the European Central Bank are preparing to take that step. But this country has made little progress since President Joe Biden signed an executive order two years ago announcing the government would explore the potential of a CBDC.

A good first step toward a cashless economy would be to stop minting pennies, which most people don't use anyway. An estimated 240 billion pennies are more likely in a piggy bank or a coffee can instead of being circulated. That has created a vicious cycle in which the U.S. Mints in Philadelphia and Denver keep making pennies that don't get spent to replace pennies that didn't get spent. Since it costs three pennies to mint a penny, that's a losing proposition.

Noting the cost to keep replacing unused pennies, Treasury Secretary William E. Simon 48 years ago asked Congress to stop minting them. More recently, former U.S. Mint direc-

See PENNY on Page 7



Vance plays Saruman to Trump's Sauron

“I’m a big Lord of the Rings guy,” JD Vance once told a podcaster. The running mate of former and perhaps future president Donald Trump went on to explain that “a lot of my conservative worldview was influenced by Tolkien.”

It's always a good idea to re-read the classics, and JRR Tolkien's trilogy is certainly among them. One mark of great literature is that you discover new things with every reading, and at any stage of life. This time, though, I'm finding that experience harrowing. This is 2024, after all, one month before a history-bending American presidential election.

Tolkien, in case you haven't noticed, is a very contemporary writer precisely because his subjects are ancient and timeless. His stories are all around us, for good, but also for ill. Tolkien's world, Middle-earth, is the stuff of fantasy not just for mythology buffs like me but also for false prophets, especially on the political right. People like Vance.

Like other Tolkien cultists, Vance likes to hide “Easter eggs” to be found by the initiated. He started a venture-capital fund named Narya after one of the 20 rings of power (this one originally made, if you must know, for the Elves but later worn by the wizard Gandalf). Vance also invested in a military-technology company named after Anduril, the sword of King Aragorn.

With these nods and winks, he keeps company with far-right Tolkien devotees in other countries. Italy's neo-fascists, for example, have since the 1970s gathered in “Hobbit camps,” where they rally to the “horn of Boromir.” Among them was Giorgia Meloni, nowadays prime minister and still paying homage to Tolkien at every turn.

What do conservatives like Vance or Meloni see in Tolkien that the rest of us don't? And are they right to see it in the text?

One possibility is that they share a spiritual worldview with the author. (Vance and Meloni are, as Tolkien was, Catholic.) Even though faith denominations play no role in his primeval storyline, Tolkien once described his trilogy as a “fundamentally religious and Catholic work.”

The narrative is certainly apocalyptic, about the struggle between good and evil, which is sometimes visible and sometimes occult. That could be Catholic, I guess. But the focus on invisible evil also lends itself to conspiracy theories — for example, about that alleged “deep state” that MAGA types love to hate.

In a more straightforward reading, Tolkien's vision of evil looks more like the industrialized totalitarianism he witnessed in his lifetime (he fought in World War I and wrote the trilogy, published in 1954, before, during and just after World War II). His tale is not so much Catholic as anti-modern. It drips with yearning for a world of idyllic shires and sacred kingdoms, for a pristine and primordial innocence and order.

That orderly Middle-earth, as conservatives can't fail to notice, is hierarchical, traditional and, within each of its races, homogenous. There are High Men and Middle Men, noble Elves, proud Dwarves, monstrous Trolls, ancient Ents, and of course

By ANDREAS KLUTH
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist.



the arch-conservative but doughty Hobbits. Theirs are not exactly cultures that emphasize migration and assimilation, individual mobility either upward or downward, DEI training or social experimentation in any form.

If you squint at the map (Tolkien loves maps of his imaginary world, and you can't read him without recourse to them) you can also see a broadly free and good west struggling against an oppressive and wicked east. The good guys tend to be fair. (Elves are light creatures in the Germanic mythology in which Tolkien, a preeminent scholar of Beowulf, was so immersed.) The bad guys, such as the Orcs, are darker. All of this is hard to miss if you watch Peter Jackson's epic movie version. No need for Vance or Meloni to dwell on it, it's simply there.

Much of that, however, could also be said about other literature and art in those pre-woke times of yore. This raises the question: Why don't conservatives, and isolationists like Vance in particular, want to see other aspects of Tolkien's world and plot, those extolling openness?

How can it have escaped Vance that the forces of good in the story can defeat evil only by forming an alliance? The Fellowship of the Ring that sets out on the noble quest comprises a Dwarf, a Wizard, an Elf, two Men and four Hobbits. Think of their nations as Middle-earth's NATO, the league that Trump and Vance disparage and despise.

The story also recognizes that evil must be defeated wherever it manifests. Tolkien's heroism is not about “Gondor first” or “Rohan first.” It's about stopping tyranny in Mordor or, in our world, Ukraine under the Russian onslaught. The good guys don't seek isolation from the world; they engage with it. (Meloni does support Ukraine; Vance does not.)

Then there is the biggest and most obvious problem in Tolkien's text for Vance's worldview. It's right there in the title, in the very basis for the epic, beginning, middle and end. Hard to miss, you'd think.

The entire story is about the corrupting influence of power. It comes in the form of the “one ring to rule them all,” which makes all those who possess it almighty in Middle-earth even as it deforms and enslaves them. It's as though Tolkien had taken his inspiration from that other Catholic Englishman, Lord Acton, who famously wrote to an Anglican bishop that “power tends to

See VANCE on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Of, for, and by the people—CNMI impotency!

First of three-part series

The ominous phrase “of, for and by the people” is too often taken for granted, especially when you don’t hear it being said in any shape, form or fashion coming from the ones you depend upon most—our leaders! The politics of China has prevailed over our economy and our very social fabric for at least the past decade and now it seems to finally be coming to an end, as arrivals continue to decline after the latest push for Chinese tourists. So, what is Plan B coming from those (Republicans) who were pushing for China? After the past decade if casino talk and what Ralph did, one would think that maybe Ambrose is not the enemy, as no politicians has never said any of my ideas were bad, just continued to ignored me and denying prosperity for the people.

Being an “adopted son of the CNMI, with no rights like a Chinese adopted child, a recognized U.S. constitutional scholar by the U.S. Congress and a real economist,” I want to see our economy boom while our politicians only worry about re-election! There was nothing on fixing the many problems until election season and true to form a bill on marijuana is passed. as Republicans used marijuana for two elections before finally legalizing it after Ambrose M. Bennett had done all the heavy lifting of educating the people, as I was the only one educating the public. I actually had people at church to tell me “I was against legalization until I read your articles in the paper.” The recent law was

more about getting votes than fixing the cannabis industry

I must reiterate the Cannabis Commission and director was supposed to have been temporary to get the industry started, as I wrote an 89-page draft for the original bill but the final bill was only 29 pages, which explains why the industry is still dysfunctional and costing more than it brings in. The purpose of paying the Cannabis Commission the high salaries was because they were supposed to have been working 40 hours a week like a regular job. But they only meet once or twice a month which explains why they have yet to promulgate any laws to govern over the industry for the Legislature to approve and the AG to prosecute after nearly six years—pure impotency. They are still playing political games with legalization and the recent bill that did nothing to improve the industry is proof, especially when political operative Clyde Norita of Saipan Select surfaces to speak, but he refused to even meet with me and other dispensary owners in the Office of the Governor to try and fix the industry, as he.

Heck, commissioner Joe Palacios even wrote to dispensary owners telling them not to work with me trying to protect an impotent commission, as Clyde didn’t want to see a level playing field for all dispensaries and Joe didn’t want to lose his high-paying job for doing virtually nothing! FYI funny people in the comment section, I’ve been writing and working, not for Ambrose but for the many people who don’t have a real voice even though they have elected officials who more often than not do not speak out and don’t even try to fix the problems nor address

By **AMBROSE M. BENNETT**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.



the challenges for the people—for true! Just look at how all of them totally ignored the \$500,000 increase in our budget by restructuring the governance structure for the cannabis industry. Our politicians don’t want to save money nor fix the industry for the people, as its Ambrose’s idea and why the industry is messed up from ignoring and trashing Ambrose—pathetic and why I continue to pray for the people.

Heck, the tax that the governor just approved on construction is good for the military construction, but it targeted everyone when the regular folks know that “one shoe does not fit all.” The tax should have only been applied to “commercial construction” who can afford it and not to local people trying to build their own home, as the tax is surely going to be passed on to the whom-ever is building. This is just another clear example of why a real economist is needed on the Hill to end the “picknick table of political operatives brain trust” that is and has been for years the ones who have made the awful economic decisions

Between the immensities

Q&A on some things

Part 2 of a trilogy on nothing, something, and everything

Exposition/Inspiration

“Things Fall Apart” a novel by Chinua Achebe
“Something wicked this way comes” spoken by the Second Witch, Act 4, Scene 1—Macbeth, play by W. Shakespeare
“Something is rotten in the state of Denmark. There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in our philosophy.” (Hamlet, Act 1, play by William Shakespeare)
“Because something is happening here but you don’t know what it is do you, Mr. Jones” Bob Dylan, Ballad of a Thin Man.

Development/Themes

Some fruit doesn’t fall very far from the tree
somebody else said it long ago it was not me
some edible roots and leaves give healthy results
some injuries heal but leave lasting memories
some reality stinks from hell to high heaven
some understand wading through life’s muck
‘some guys complain some have all the luck’

Answer me this do you remember your first kiss
those moments of bliss the name of Mister or Miss
the poet more than likely means something else
other than sunlight sand sex surf and seashells
perhaps a turbulent ocean full of raw emotion
a deep stormy sea full of love dreams devotion
there’s surely something else in sonnets he tells.

Recapitulation/Coda

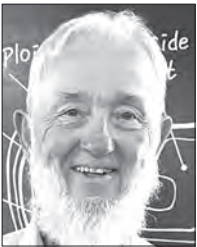
Some things gone wrong with life’s unhappy song

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka “Pepe Batbon” is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



some things right with democracy freedom’s light
we knew it was out there shining all along
despite fear and loathing of ideological blight.
Some things are so small we will never see them
and only resolved in a quantum theory problem
in which some things are solved then dissolved
what’s up with that? quantum theory spits it back.
“ these are a few of my favorite things” an excerpt
from a song in the musical, The Sound Of Music
the sounds in a Chinese kitchen, Pong Pang Pings
not in cell phone pings or rings in people’s noses
but church bells ringing rings around the moon
wedding rings and throughout this 21st century
interest in Baroque music instruments and strings
and the changing cosmological theory of strings.

Yesterday I said some things about ‘nothing’
today it is about ‘some things’ else again
flowing from Batbon’s Brane and Joey’s pen
trying hard not to forget a time when someone
sang, “Everything is beautiful in its own way”.
(next week Part 3, Q and A on everything)

VANCE

From page 6

corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Nobody in the story is immune to the ring’s temptation. The heroes and heroines are instead those with enough self-awareness and restraint to refuse the ring when offered, such as Gandalf or the Elf Lady Galadriel. Even the ostensible lead character, Frodo, comes under the ring’s spell. He and his quest are repeatedly saved only by his simple-minded gardener and loyal friend, Samwise Gamgee, or Sam.

What about Vance, though? In 2016 he wrote to an acquaintance that “I go back and forth between thinking Trump is a cynical asshole like Nixon who wouldn’t be that bad (and might even prove useful) or that he’s America’s Hitler.” Let that sink in. And then think about which Tolkien character Vance would be.

Nobody in American public life today craves power for its own sake as ravenously as Trump does. And nobody has so little intellectual, philosophical or moral resistance to power’s corrupting force, should he ever grasp the ring again in the Oval Office.

In that way, Trump is Sauron in this tale. That would make Vance Saruman, a wizard who was once wise but fell prey to ambition and the lust for power, and allied himself with Sauron in the hope of eventually putting the ring on his own finger.

The lesson of the Lord of the Rings is that power is something that must be limited and ultimately renounced or destroyed for people anywhere to live free. Tolkien might have savored the irony that some of his closest readers could one day yearn to Make Mordor Great Again. If he were still around, he’d once again place his last thread of faith in Sam, the ordinary Hobbit who just wants to go home to the Shire, or the American voter who goes to the polls on Nov. 5.

PENNY

From page 6

tor Philip Diehl said the penny should have been retired when vending machines stopped taking them. Coinstar machines still take pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, but will charge you a 12.5% service fee to count them.

Canada stopped distributing its penny coin in 2012 and subsequently removed six billion pennies from circulation. Over the






next three years, it returned most of those coins to the nation’s mint, which melted them so the metal could be used otherwise. Pennies remain legal tender in Canada and can still be used to make purchases. But once a penny reaches a bank, it is taken out of circulation. That fate may await all currency.

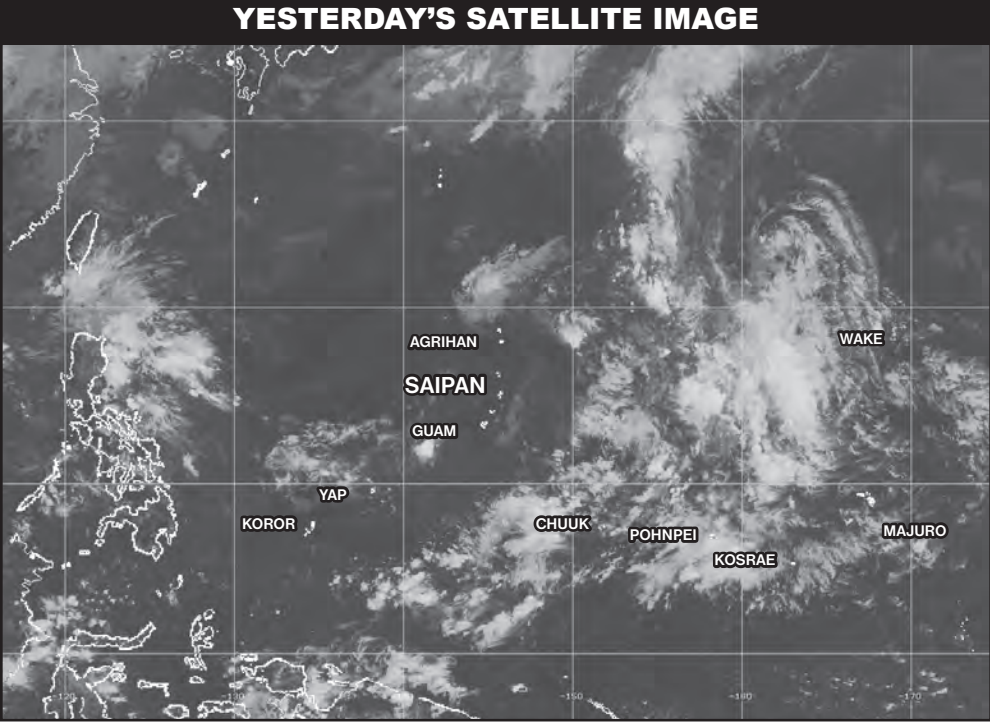
Centuries have passed since money replaced the barter system. The first coins, bronze and copper imitations of cowry shells, were made by the Chinese around 1000 B.C. The first gold and silver coins were made around 700 B.C. in the ancient kingdom of Lydia, now part of Turkey. Minting coins spread to Greece, Persia, Mace-

donia, and Rome. The United States struck its first coins in 1793 at the Philadelphia Mint and issued its first paper money in 1861.

What comes next requires care. A huge issue to be resolved with digital money is its vulnerability to identity theft as phishing hackers use malware and other means to obtain private information. No data available digitally seems to remain private these days. That means if the Federal Reserve Board ever develops a digital alternative to U.S. currency, it must come up with a better security system than banks are using now.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to southeast winds around 10 mph.		Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Partly to mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
88°	78°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 4:46 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes were made to the weather and marine forecast. Island-effect showers remain a possibility today over Guam, with a mostly pleasant weather regime expected for the region this week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Yap	Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:54 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:33 AM	3:32 PM
Tuesday	-	3:33 AM	4:15 PM
Wednesday	-	4:32 AM	4:57 PM
Thursday	-	5:32 AM	5:41 PM
Friday	-	6:33 AM	6:28 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	63° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
London	Showers	63° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 58°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Miami	Showers	85° / 78°	
New York	Showers	72° / 61°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	79° / 66°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Busan	Rain	66° / 55°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 48°	
Seoul	Showers	59° / 46°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°	
Washington, DC	Showers	73° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:49 AM	High Tide	1.61	
10:47 AM	Low Tide	-0.00	
5:43 PM	High Tide	1.92	
11:44 PM	Low Tide	0.80	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
				7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27	7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Supreme Court affirms trial court dismissal in sexual assault case

The Supreme Court last Oct. 11 affirmed an order by the trial court dismissing the charges against Tim Onopey with prejudice.

The Commonwealth charged Onopey with first degree sexual assault, but later moved to dismiss the charge after the complaining witness changed her testimony. The prosecution asked the court to dismiss the case without prejudice, which would allow it to re-file charges against Onopey in the future.

Onopey objected, asking the court to dismiss with prejudice, preventing the prosecution from re-filing the charges against him. The lower court sided with Onopey, dismissing the case with prejudice after finding the prosecution's motion to dismiss was made in bad faith.

The Commonwealth appealed, arguing that all such dismissals must be without prejudice and that the prosecution may always re-file charges as long as the statute of limitations has not expired.

In its opinion, the Supreme Court found that the trial court was incorrect to find bad faith in holding that the prosecution's motion to dismiss was made in bad faith, but affirmed the court's order dismissing the case without the possibility to re-file charges. The Supreme Court found that the trial court has authority to manage the terms of dismissal, and that it was not an abuse of the court's discretion to dismiss the case with prejudice, since the prosecution did not provide the court any reason to allow it time to continue its investigation or re-file charges against Onopey. **(PR)**

Scheduled power service interruptions on Oct. 15, 16

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions on Oct. 15 and 16, 2024.

■ Traffic Light (s) Affected: Saipan Ice traffic light

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to make power system improvements to Feeder 4 and Feeder 7.

■ Power Service Interruption Time: 9am-10:30am.

■ Area(s) Affected: Garapan

wooden power pole.

■ Wastewater Facilities Affected: None

■ Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

■ Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to make system repairs and maintenance.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we work to ensure reliable service for our customers. For more information, please contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. **(PR)**

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024

- Power Service Interruption Time: 3pm-4pm.
- Area(s) Affected: Lower Base, As Matuis, Tanapag, Achugao, and San Roque.
- Water Well(s) Affected: As Matuis, Tanapag, Achugao, and San Roque (water services to these areas may be affected based on tank levels)
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: T-1, T-3, SR-1, SR-2, and SR-3

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024

- Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-11:30am.
- Area(s) Affected: Garapan (Micro Beach Road)
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to relocate a 40-foot



The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power interruption in Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024.



The map of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power interruption from the Garapan fire station to Sura Saipan Restaurant on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024.

**JOE HILL
HILL LAW OFFICE**
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7743/6806
Fax: (670) 234-7753
E-mail: vesta@opticom.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Juliana C. Samonte

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

JULIANA C. SAMONTE } Civil Action No.
Plaintiff, } 22-0224-CV

-VS- } **NOTICE OF HEARING**

SUNG HUN SON, }
Defendant. } Date: November 12, 2024
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Hon. Lillian
Ada Tenorio

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff Juliana C. Samonte, through counsel Joe Hill, request and moves the Court to strike Defendant's Answer dated November 22, 2022 filed in this matter, and declare Defendant Sung Hun Son in default.

The hearing on Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Defendant's Answer dated November 22, 2022 and Declare Defendant in Default dated August 30, 2024 ("Motion") has been set for Nov. 12, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard before the Honorable Lillian Ada Tenorio, Associate Judge of the above-named Court.

A copy of the said Motion is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court of the said Court. SIGNED this 10th day of September, 2024.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

By: _____
/s/ _____
Deputy Clerk of Court

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Jamerito Adona } FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
Casama } NO. 24-0160
Petitioner, }

vs. } **SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION**

Yolanda Cruz }
Casama }
Respondent, }

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is Box 10003 PMB 686 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 3rd of October, 2024.

/s/ _____
Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCP LB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/18/2024)
- Public Comments
- Chairperson's Report
- Director's Report
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
- Governor's Office
 - Providing for Modified Government Hours of Executive Branch Departments and Agencies for Fiscal Year 2025
- Legislature
- Old Business
 - Update on the Professional Counselor and Social Work regulations
- New Business
- Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - Total Reviewed = _____ New Application = _____
 - Renewal = _____ Pending = _____
- Miscellaneous Business
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - AG's comments on Special Faculty Permit
 - Update on Kagman Collaborative Practice Agreement
- Announcements
- Next Meeting Date
- Adjournment of Meeting

K9 Heroes

†K9 Beni †K9 Boss

Thank you for your services.
You are gone but never will be forgotten. Rest in Peace in your forever home Paw Heaven.

**From Everyone
That Cares.**

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.
PO Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4428 • Fax. (670) 433-4427

Tinian Fuel Services, Inc. has an opening for:

49-9021 MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN (1)

Duties: Inspect, make repairs, and test machinery or equipment (such as freezers, chillers, air conditioners, and ice cream machines) to diagnose machine malfunctions. Perform routine preventive maintenance to ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, and the physical condition of the building/facility does not deteriorate.

Qualifications: Required to have minimum of a high school diploma degree and 24 months of work experience with previous work-related skills, equipment maintenance, repairing, troubleshooting and detail-oriented.

Worksite Location: San Jose Village, Tinian; Salary: \$10.06 to \$15.00/Hour; Work Hours: Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm; Overtime Available at 1.5 x base rate/Hour; Frequency of Pay: Bi-Weekly; Deductions: All applicable CNMI and Federal Taxes including FICA and Withholding Tax; Benefits: Worker's Compensation Offered.

Closing Date: October 19, 2024

Applicants may submit their resume personally (walk-in) at our office located in San Jose Village, Tinian
Tel No.: (670) 433-4428 or by emailing us their resume at service@tinianservice.com. Applicants may apply during weekdays only, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, excluding national holidays.

Nation

Doctor deems Harris in 'excellent health'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris is in "excellent health" and "possesses the physical and mental resiliency" required to serve as president, her doctor said in a letter released Saturday that summarizes her medical history and status.

Dr. Joshua Simmons, an Army colonel and physician to the vice president, wrote that Harris, 59, maintains a healthy, active lifestyle and that her most recent physical last April was "unremarkable."

She "possesses the physical and mental resiliency required to successfully execute the duties of the Presidency, to include those as Chief Executive, Head of State and Commander in Chief," he wrote in a two-page letter.

Harris' campaign hopes the release of her medical report will draw a contrast with Republican Donald Trump, who has shared only limited information about his health over the years, and raise questions

about his fitness to serve, according to a campaign aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

Trump has released very little health information, including after his ear was grazed by a bullet during an assassination attempt in July in Pennsylvania.

Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for the Trump campaign, said Saturday that Trump has voluntarily released updates

from his personal physician as well as detailed reports from Rep. Ronny Jackson, R-Texas, who, before he was elected to Congress, was Trump's physician at the White House. Jackson also treated Trump after the assassination attempt.

"All have concluded he is in perfect and excellent health to be Commander in Chief," Cheung said in a statement. The campaign press office provided links to some of Trump's past medical reports. They included: <https://tinyurl.com/yckc495b> and <https://tinyurl.com/4z27pk2f>

If Trump, who is 78, were to be elected next month, he would be the oldest president in U.S. history by the time his term ends in 2029.

Harris addressed the issue on Saturday before she traveled to North Carolina.

"It's clear to me that he and his team do not want the American people to really see what he is doing and if he is fit to be the president," she told the reporters accompanying her.

Asked if she thought Trump's mental acuity had declined, Harris said, "I invite the public to watch his rallies and be the decision-maker."

Simmons, who said he has been Harris' primary care physician for the past 3 1/2 years, said the vice president has a history of seasonal allergies and urticaria, or hives. She has been able to "dramatically" improve her symptoms over the past three years with an immunotherapy medication that helps the body become less sensitive to allergens.

» Her team aims to contrast with Trump's scant medical info

Hurricane Milton cleanup hampered by widespread fuel shortage

CORTEZ, Fla. (AP)—Floridians recovering from Hurricane Milton, many of whom were journeying home after fleeing hundreds of miles to escape the storm, spent much of Saturday searching for gas as a fuel shortage gripped the state.

In St. Petersburg, scores of people lined up at a station that had no gas, hoping it would arrive soon. Among them was Daniel Thornton and his 9-year-old daughter Magnolia, who arrived at the station at 7 a.m. and were still waiting four hours later.

"They told me they have gas coming but they don't know when it's going to be here," he said. "I have no choice. I have to sit here all day with her until I get gas."

Gov. Ron DeSantis told reporters Saturday morning that the state opened three fuel distribution sites and planned to open several more. Residents can get 10 gallons (37.85 liters) each, free of charge, he said.

"Obviously as power gets restored ... and the Port of Tampa is open, you're going to see the fuel flowing. But

in the meantime, we want to give people another option," DeSantis said.

Officials were replenishing area gas stations with the state's fuel stockpiles and provided generators to stations that remained without power.

Those who reached home were assessing the damage and beginning the arduous cleaning process. Some, like Bill O'Connell, a board member at Bahia Vista Gulf in Venice, had thought they were done after the condo association hired companies to gut, treat and dry the units following Hurricane Helene. Milton undid that work and caused additional damage, O'Connell said.

"It reflooded everything that was already flooded, brought all the sand back on our property that we removed," O'Connell said. "And also did some catastrophic wind damage, ripped off many roofs and blew out a lot of windows that caused more damage inside the units."

The two hurricanes left a ruinous mess in the fishing village of Cortez, a community of 4,100 along the northern edge of Sarasota Bay. Residents of

its modest, single-story wood and stucco-fronted cottages were working to remove broken furniture and tree limbs, stacking the debris in the street much like they did after Hurricane Helene.

"Everything is shot," said Mark Praught, a retired street sweeper for Manatee County, who saw 4-foot (1.2-meter) storm surges during Helene. "We'll replace the electrical and the plumbing and go from there."

Praught and his wife, Catherine, have lived for 36 years in a low-lying home that now looks like an empty shell. All the furniture had to be discarded, the walls and the brick and tile floors had to be scrubbed clean of muck, and drywall had to be ripped out.

Catherine Praught said they felt "pure panic" when Hurricane Milton menaced Cortez so soon after Helene, forcing them to pause their cleanup and evacuate. Fortunately, their home wasn't damaged by the second storm.

"This is where we live," Catherine Praught said. "We're just hopeful we get the insurance company to help us."

World

AS HEZBOLLAH AND ISRAEL BATTLE ON BORDER

Lebanon's weak army watches from sidelines

BEIRUT (AP)—Since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon, Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants have clashed along the border while the Lebanese army has largely stood on the sidelines.

It's not the first time the national army has found itself watching war at home from the discomfiting position of bystander.

Lebanon's widely beloved army is one of the few institutions that bridge the country's sectarian and political divides. Several army commanders have become president, and the current commander, Gen. Joseph Aoun, is widely regarded as one of the front-runners to step in when the deadlocked parliament fills a two-year vacuum and names a president.

But with an aging arsenal and no air defenses, and battered by five years of economic crisis, the national army is ill-prepared to defend Lebanon against either aerial bombardment or a ground offensive by a well-equipped modern army like Israel's.

The army is militarily overshadowed by Hezbollah. The Lebanese army has about 80,000 troops, with around 5,000 of them de-



A Lebanese army soldier sits behind his weapon on the top of an armored personnel carrier at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Beirut's southern suburb, Monday, Sept. 23, 2024.

ployed in the south. Hezbollah has more than 100,000 fighters, according to the militant group's late leader, Hassan Nasrallah. Its arsenal—built with support from Iran—is also more advanced.

Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters have been clashing since Oct. 8, 2023, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets over the border in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza.

In recent weeks, Israel has conducted a major aerial bombardment of Lebanon and a ground invasion that it says aims to push Hezbollah back from the border and allow displaced residents of

northern Israel to return.

As Israeli troops made their first forays across the border and Hezbollah responded with rocket fire, Lebanese soldiers withdrew from observation posts along the frontier and repositioned about 5 kilometers (3 miles) back.

So far, Israeli forces have not advanced that far. The only direct clashes between the two national armies were on Oct. 3, when Israeli tank fire hit a Lebanese army position in the area of Bint Jbeil, killing a soldier, and on Friday, when two soldiers were killed in an airstrike in the same area. The Lebanese army said it returned fire both times.

Zelenskyy appeals to allies to keep up aid as Germany pledges new weapons package

BERLIN (AP)—President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday it's important that allies' aid to Ukraine doesn't decrease next year as he received a pledge of a new weapons package from German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on a European tour meant to win backing for his "victory plan" aimed at ending the war with Russia.

Zelenskyy arrived in Berlin after stops Thursday in London, Paris and Rome on a tour arranged after a planned summit Saturday with U.S. President Joe Biden and other allied leaders was derailed by Hurricane Milton.

Scholz noted that Germany is Ukraine's biggest military supporter in Europe and the second-biggest behind the United States, and said "it will stay that way."

Scholz emphasized Ber-

lin's continued focus on helping Kyiv with air defense. And he said that, by the end of the year, it will deliver another package of military support worth about 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion), with support from Belgium, Denmark and Norway—including further air defense systems, self-propelled Gepard anti-aircraft guns, tanks, armored vehicles, combat drones, artillery ammunition and radars.

"For us, it is very important that aid does not decrease next year," Zelenskyy said, thanking Scholz for the planned aid. "It must be sufficient to protect people and lives."

This year's German budget foresees nearly 7.5 billion euros in military aid for Ukraine, while next year's plan is for 4 billion euros.

Berlin hopes a \$50 billion international loan package funded by interest on profits from frozen Russian assets will play a growing role in financing aid starting next year, with Kyiv procuring weapons directly. The aim is for that system to be set up by the end of the year.

Scholz told Zelenskyy that "you can rely" on that package. He said Russian President Vladimir Putin should realize that "playing for time won't work; we won't let up in our support for Ukraine."

The Ukrainian leader has yet to publicly detail his proposals for "victory." But the timing of his efforts to lock in European support appear to have the looming U.S. election in mind. Former President Donald Trump has long been critical of U.S. aid to Kyiv.

Life & Style

Sean 'Diddy' Combs to stay in jail while appeals court takes up bail fight

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal appeals court judge has ruled to keep Sean “Diddy” Combs locked up while he makes a third bid for bail in his sex trafficking case, which is slated to go to trial in May.

In a decision filed Friday, Circuit Judge William J. Nardini denied the hip-hop mogul’s immediate release from jail while a three-judge panel weighs his bail request.

Combs’ lawyers appealed to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 30 after two judges rejected his release.

Combs, 54, has been held at a federal jail in Brooklyn since his Sept. 16 arrest on charges that he used his “power and prestige” as a music star to induce female victims into drugged-up, elaborately pro-

duced sexual performances with male sex workers in events dubbed “Freak Offs.”

Combs has pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges alleging he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

At a bail hearing three weeks ago, a judge rejected the defense’s \$50 million bail proposal that would’ve allowed the “I’ll Be Missing You” singer to be placed under house arrest at his Florida mansion with GPS monitoring and strict limits on visitors.

Judge Andrew L. Carter Jr.,



In this courtroom sketch, Sean “Diddy” Combs’ defense attorney Marc Agnifilo, left, addresses the judge while Combs, seated second from right, in prison uniform, watches during a hearing in federal court in New York, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

who has since recused himself from the case, said that prosecutors had presented “clear and convincing evidence” that Combs is a danger to the community. He said “no con-

dition or set of conditions” could guard against the risk of Combs obstructing the investigation or threatening or harming witnesses.

In their appeal, Combs’ law-

yers argued that the judge had “endorsed the government’s exaggerated rhetoric” and ordered Combs detained for “purely speculative reasons.”

“Indeed, hardly a risk of flight, he is a 54-year-old father of seven, a U.S. citizen, an extraordinarily successful artist, businessman, and philanthropist, and one of the most recognizable people on earth,” the lawyers wrote.

Combs’ lawyers have not asked the new trial judge, Arun Subramanian, to consider releasing him on bail. At a hearing Thursday, as Combs sat alongside his lawyers in a beige jail jumpsuit, Subramanian suggested he would at least be open to taking up the issue.

After setting a May 5 trial date, Subramanian briefly questioned Combs’ lawyers about his treatment at the Metropolitan Detention Center, which has been plagued by violence and dysfunction for years.

Combs lawyer Mark Agnifilo, who had previously sought to have him moved to a jail in New Jersey, told the judge: “We’re making a go of the MDC. The MDC has been very responsive for us.”

Another Combs lawyer, Anthony Ricco, told reporters outside the courthouse afterward: “He’s doing fine. It’s a difficult circumstance. He’s making the best of the situation.”

But, Ricco said: “Nobody’s OK with staying in jail for now.”

Nobuyo Oyama, voice actor for beloved Japanese cartoon robotic cat Doraemon, dies at age 90

TOKYO (AP)—Nobuyo Oyama, best known as the raspy voice of Doraemon, the beloved cartoon robotic cat from the future, has died. She was 90.

Oyama, who voiced Doraemon for more than a quarter century, died of natural causes on Sept. 29, her agency, Actors Seven, said Friday.

Oyama performed the voice of the blue-and-white robotic cat from 1979 to 2005.

Created by the cartoonist Fujiko F. Fujio in 1970, Doraemon and the story of his friendship with Nobita, a



Oyama

good-hearted but somewhat lazy boy, became hugely popular. The manga and anime series have been read and watched by millions of fans in Japan and across the world and have been translated into dozens of languages.

In the series, Doraemon arrives from the 22nd century and helps Nobita in difficult situations, often with gadgets from the future such as an “anywhere door” and “take-copter.”

Born in Tokyo in 1933, Oyama was an aspiring actor and debuted in a 1956 drama on Japan’s NHK public television. She had

her first voice acting role in 1957 in the dubbed version of the TV drama series “Lassie.”

Oyama’s raspy voice quickly gained her popularity in anime and children’s programs. She was the voice of one of three piglets in a popular children’s puppet show in the early 1960s and of teenage boy Katsuo in the family anime series “Sazae-san” prior to “Doraemon.”

Oyama retired as Doraemon in March 2005 as part of a renewal of the voice actors for the main characters. “I hope Doraemon will still be a beloved character in the distant future,” Oyama said.

NY prosecutors want to combine Harvey Weinstein’s criminal cases into a single trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors are asking a Manhattan judge to consolidate the two sex crime cases that Harvey Weinstein faces in New York into a single trial this year—a move that the disgraced movie mogul’s lawyers oppose.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg’s office argued in court filings released Friday that the cases have significant overlap as they involve similar criminal statutes, witnesses, expert testimony and documentary evidence.

They say separate trials would be “extraordinarily inefficient and burdensome” and waste judicial resources.

“There is a strong public interest in consolidating these indictments for trial because separate trials would require duplicative, lengthy, and expensive proceedings that would needlessly consume judicial and party resources,” the office wrote in its filings.

Weinstein is awaiting retrial on two sex charges stemming from his landmark #MeToo case after the state’s highest court overturned his 2020 conviction earlier this year.

He also pleaded not guilty last month to a new sex crime charge in which prosecutors say he forced oral sex on a woman in a Manhattan hotel in spring 2006.

Weinstein’s lawyers, in court filings submitted earlier this month, argued the cases should remain separate.

They said prosecutors are attempting to “expand the scope” of the court-ordered retrial and transform it into “an entirely new proceeding” by including the new charges.

“Having deprived Defendant of a fair trial once, the People unapologetically—indeed, unabashedly—seek to do so again by smuggling an additional charge into the case for the improper purpose of bolstering the credibility of the complainant in the 2024 indictment,” Weinstein’s lawyers wrote.

Niece invites only young cousins to wedding

DEAR ABBY: My niece is getting married. We have received a wedding invitation, RSVP and all, but it’s addressed only to my two 11-year-old identical twin daughters. My husband and I are not invited to the wedding or to the reception. There’s been no communication as to how child care will be provided for both events.

Puzzled, I texted my niece and expressed a desire to talk about a possible disharmony in our relationship and resolving whatever may be troubling her about me or what I may have done. She texted back saying that her wedding is “intimate” and she’s only inviting people she’s close to and who play an active role in her life. She hopes I can respect her decision and still allow my daughters to attend. Granted, we’re not super close, but any differences we’ve ever had, I have spearheaded to communicate, apologize and move forward with solutions and reassurances.

My niece often has her mother (my sister) ask me if she can spend time with my daughters, and when I agree to come over with them, she tells her mom to tell me, “You’re not invited, just the girls.” I know something is amiss, but she refuses to talk, just text. This kind of conversation cannot be had via text.

I will respect all my niece’s decisions, but I feel she is making passive-aggressive statements about how she feels about me. My daughters don’t want to go and are hurt that

she treats me so poorly. More importantly, how can I encourage a close relationship between her and my daughters when she has a history of not respecting me and how I want my daughters cared for?

EXCLUDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR EXCLUDED: I suspect that your niece may be attempting to turn your daughters into pawns to try to antagonize you. I do not think you should send them to a family celebration from which you are excluded, particularly in light of the fact that they aren’t eager to go. Neither do I think you should encourage them to have a close relationship with someone as manipulative as your niece appears to be. If she has a bone to pick with you, she should do it directly so it can be sorted out. In the meantime, please don’t play her game, because that is what this is.

DEAR ABBY: Four years ago, I separated from my husband of many years due to his infidelity. I moved back to my hometown and am working to improve myself and build a happier life. While I have no interest in him anymore, I still find myself putting off the task of actually filing for divorce. How can I motivate myself to get this important step done?

READY TO FILE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR READY: You are still a work in progress. When you are ready for a happier life, perhaps if you meet someone and want to form a permanent relationship, you will be motivated to sever that last bond. In the meantime, consult an attorney about any possible risk, including financial, in remaining legally married to your husband.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Energy

4 Annoyed

9 Dog's foot

12 MSNBC's Melber

13 Amazon's virtual assistant

14 Top card

15 Shindig after a Broadway run

17 Genetic letters

18 Daybreak goddess

19 List

21 Leave

24 Friend

25 Smile words

26 Bro, maybe

28 Barbie and Ken

31 Scurry

33 Fire

35 Painter Mondrian

36 "Africa"

38 Petrol

40 Museum-funding org.

41 Harvard rival

43 Stephen King novel

45 Tone down

47 Japanese ruler, for short

48 Green prefix

49 Campus club

54 Golfer Ernie

55 Major exam

56 British singer Rita

57 "Kapital"

58 Marsh plant

59 Guffaw

DOWN

1 Efron of "Neighbors"

2 Glass of public radio

3 Math ratios

4 Mists

5 Stretchy

6 Gen- (boomer's kid)

7 Surplus

8 Made 24 hours ago

9 Official policy

10 Dreaded breakout

11 Put on

16 Afternoon cupful

20 Sty chow

21 Pedestal part

22 Jacob's brother

23 Political bigwig

27 Satchel

29 Lusty look

30 Remain

32 Frog's kin

34 Convention ID

37 Plumps up, as pillows

39 Not complex

42 Haunting

44 Hot tub

45 Feeder filler

46 Golden State sch.

50 More-over

51 Artist Lichtenstein

52 Capote nickname

53 Tibetan beast

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's answer 10-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Usher, 46; Natalie Maines, 50; Lori Petty, 61; Ralph Lauren, 85.

Happy Birthday: Step outside your comfort zone and push yourself to initiate the changes necessary to reach your dreams, hopes and wishes. Procrastinating will leave you feeling empty-handed. Opportunity is apparent; stop pontificating and start the ball rolling. Instead of making excuses, try to learn and adapt as you go. The best way forward is an imaginative approach to life, learning and exercising your talents to meet demands. Your numbers are 9, 17, 21, 26, 33, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Can you keep a secret? Wait to reveal your plans until everything is nailed down and ready. Don't allow any room for interference or criticism. A positive attitude, tunnel vision and expert advice are your passage forward. Personal growth, self-improvement and financial gain look promising. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Participate and collaborate with people you find stimulating and proactive. The future looks bright if you are ready to adapt to the changes happening around you. Refuse to let anyone bully you into being a follower when leadership is where you belong and can make a difference. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't share secrets, intentions or personal information. An offer may tempt you, but buyers should beware that scammers are eager to take advantage of you. Don't let someone's charm and compliments put you in harm's way. Focus on what you do best and finish what you start. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore the possibilities and turn a pastime that brings you joy into a lucrative investment. Look into certification if that is what it takes to implement one of your passions or outlets into your daily routine. Love what you do, and happiness will follow. Romance is favored. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful what you wish for. A change may entice you, but do your due diligence before you take a different path. Walk away from anyone using emotional manipulation or pressure tactics to get you to buy into their scheme. Gather information and devise a unique plan. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Before indulging in something, determine how much it will cost and whether your budget can withstand the pressure. A change of plans can benefit you if it gives you an excuse to walk away from a situation you don't relish. Focus on selling off what you don't need. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider unique ways to use your skills and boost your qualifications. Adapt to suit what's trending and network to ensure you market what you have to offer to the right people and projects. How you use your cash flow will allow you to expand your interests. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your thinking cap on and learn all you can. The research you do will lead to exciting connections and improve your lifestyle. A personal change you make will lead to compliments that boost your confidence. An opportunity is helpful only if it's something you need. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get out and mingle, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone you talk to will embellish information to hold your interest. Question everything and verify information before you pass it along. Concentrate on your health, well-being and financial growth before you extend a helping hand to others. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for new ways to express yourself and to utilize your qualifications. Attend functions that encourage interactions with experts and those heading in a similar direction as you. An exciting attraction will promote a unique partnership with someone you enjoy being around. Romance is on the rise. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let outside influences disrupt your plans or push you in a direction you don't care to go. Utilize your voice and act to maintain balance and stay on course until you reach your objective. Adapt only when necessary, and have a backup plan in place. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stop short of going overboard financially, emotionally or physically. It's best to bide your time, plan carefully and use what you already have in place rather than trying to reinvent something or going down the wrong path to please someone else. Do what's best for you. ***

Birthday Baby: You are underestimated, passionate and creative. You are ambitious and curious.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀☀☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀☀☀☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8		3	2								
		7			8	4	5	3			
9						1	8				
	9		1	5				2	6		
2	4	5		3	6						
	1	6		9	2			3	4		
					7	8	9	5			
					3	2					
	7		4	8		3	6				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

8	3	2	1	7	9	4	5	6
4	9	6	3	8	5	1	7	2
1	5	7	4	2	6	3	8	9
3	8	9	7	1	2	6	4	5
7	6	5	9	4	8	2	3	1
2	1	4	5	6	3	8	9	7
6	7	1	8	9	4	5	2	3
5	2	8	6	3	7	9	1	4
9	4	3	2	5	1	7	6	8

Difficulty: ★ 10/14
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SAVANNAH'S HISTORIC DISTRICT Solution: 12 letters

O	T	O	U	R	I	V	E	R	S	T	R	E	E	T
A	S	R	E	T	R	A	U	Q	D	A	E	H	J	E
K	N	I	K	S	A	L	U	P	T	R	O	F	O	K
S	T	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	C	D	N	R	
K	S	R	I	A	F	L	E	T	M	K	N	A	E	A
R	O	O	A	Q	B	B	L	U	L	A	H	O	S	M
A	H	E	T	S	U	E	S	A	L	E	D	R	S	Y
P	G	G	N	S	P	E	S	W	S	R	E	R	L	T
H	E	A	U	A	U	S	I	X	L	A	I	R	I	
T	O	T	O	M	R	E	T	P	E	T	Y	A	E	C
Y	R	T	F	O	E	A	L	T	O	N	T	R	E	H
S	G	O	T	B	G	O	O	F	E	R	R	Y	T	U
R	I	C	Y	E	R	H	C	E	N	T	U	R	Y	R
O	A	T	T	E	E	R	T	S	D	A	O	R	B	C
F	O	R	R	E	S	T	G	U	M	P	C	E	S	H

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Guardians down Tigers to reach AL Championship Series



CLEVELAND

(AP) — For the third time in less than a month, the Cleveland Guardians made a semi-circle in the middle of their clubhouse and emptied champagne and beer bottles on each other as “Rocky Top” blasted through the speakers.

The choice of music is unique. So is this team.

The Guardians are an October surprise.

Lane Thomas hit a grand slam off Detroit ace Tarik Skubal and the Guardians, who have won with timely hitting and a shutdown bullpen all season, followed that script for a 7-3 victory over the Tigers in Game 5 of their AL Division Series on Saturday.

Next up for Cleveland is the New York Yankees in an AL Championship Series between two teams that have crossed paths six previous times in the playoffs. They last met in 2022, with the Yankees taking their ALDS in five games.

Game 1 is Monday in the Bronx.

With their \$109 million payroll, the Guardians are an oddity among baseball’s final four—the little guys taking on the big-spending Yankees, Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers.

It’s Cleveland against the world.

“We’re playing a very, very good Yankees team,” said Guardians first-year manager Stephen Vogt. “We’ve seen them in the regular season. This is one of the most talented teams in the league. So we know we have our work cut out for us.”

Thomas had five RBIs for the Guardians, who weren’t expected to contend this sea-



Cleveland Guardians' Emmanuel Clase, left, and Josh Naylor, right, celebrate after the Guardians defeated the Detroit Tigers in Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series, Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, in Cleveland. AP

son. But they won the tough AL Central under Vogt, giving the franchise a chance to stop a World Series title drought stretching to 1948.

“We’re a step closer. Any time you’re a step closer, the more you want to win,” All-Star third baseman José Ramírez said through an interpreter. “And we want to win it for the city.”

The Guardians had to take down Skubal, the front-runner for the AL Cy Young Award, to keep it going. The left-hander had not given up a run in 28 consecutive innings—17 in this postseason—before the

Guardians tagged him in the fifth for five runs, tying the most he allowed in 2024.

“They wanted to face him today,” Vogt said. “And if you don’t show up fully confident that you’re going to win, you don’t show up to the field. That’s been our approach all year, and we’re not going to stop now.”

Cleveland pieced together its big inning off Skubal with the team’s familiar, scrappy style dubbed “Guards Ball,” getting three singles—one an infield roller—to load the bases before Skubal hit Ramírez on the left hand to

force in a run.

“That’s who we are,” Vogt said. “That’s who that group has been in that room all year. As soon as we get punched, we answer. That’s been our M.O. all year long—as soon as we give up a run, our guys come right back.”

That brought up Thomas, who hit a three-run homer in Cleveland’s 7-0 win in Game 1.

The center fielder, who struggled in his first month with the Guardians after coming over in a July trade with Washington, connected on Skubal’s first pitch, sending it just over the 19-foot-high wall

in left-center field.

When the ball touched down, the Guardians’ dugout emptied and the screaming, red-clad Progressive Field crowd erupted in celebration.

It was another monster moment for Thomas, a Tennessee native and the reason why the club added “Rocky Top” to its postgame playlist.

“Definitely had some struggles those first two weeks, or maybe even the month,” Thomas said, reflecting on his rocky start with Cleveland. “I’m just thankful they kind of hung with me and let me get my feet under me and kept

giving me at-bats. It felt good to kind of come through late in September and obviously in the playoffs.”

The homer was a rare mis-step in what has been a dominant season for Skubal.

“It was one pitch,” Skubal said. “I would love to have it back. But what a swing. In the moment, you think about executing the pitch and I didn’t do it. This will sting a little bit and it should.”

As has been the case all season, Vogt leaned on his MLB-best bullpen, which showed some wear and tear.

After Thomas hit his homer, the Tigers threatened in the sixth, scoring a run on a single by Jake Rogers and loading the bases with two outs. But Hunter Gaddis struck out Kerry Carpenter, who won Game 2 with a three-run homer in the ninth.

The Tigers, though, kept clawing and closed to 5-3 on Colt Keith’s one-out RBI double in the seventh. Eli Morgan came in for Cleveland and struck out both batters he faced.

Thomas hit an RBI single in the seventh to put the Guardians up by three, and Vogt turned to All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase, the AL’s saves leader, in the eighth to put the Tigers away.

Throwing one 100 mph fastball after another, Clase got the final six outs. When he retired Keith on a routine grounder to first, the Guardians could finally exhale and plan for their first ALCS visit since 2016.

“These moments are made for confidence,” Clase said through an interpreter. “I feel that I’m made for that.”

‘Big Spender’ theme music for MLB Final Four as high-payroll Mets, Yankees, Dodgers reach LCS

NEW YORK (AP)—“Big Spender” is the theme music for baseball’s final four.

The New York Mets, New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers are in the League Championship Series with the sport’s top three payrolls, joined by Cleveland at No. 23.

“You have to scratch and claw and match up and make moves, take shots and hope that it works,” Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said. “Whereas for the other three teams, for the majorities, they set their lineup and go play.”

The Mets-Dodgers National League Championship Series starting Sunday and the Yankees-Guardians American League matchup beginning Monday feature some of baseball’s biggest stars in Shohei Ohtani, Mookie Betts, Aaron Judge, Juan Soto, Francisco Lindor and Pete Alonso.

Cleveland has the best closer in Emmanuel Clase and a top hitter in José Ramírez.

Playoff pairings bring to the forefront the question of whether spending equates to success.

“Obviously, spending more gives you a better chance—you’re bringing in more players,” Mets reliever Adam Ottavino said. “But obviously it hasn’t always played out that way.”

The Mets have the top payroll of \$332 million, followed by the Yankees at \$311 million and the Dodgers at \$266 million, according to Major League Baseball’s latest projections (final figures aren’t calculated until winter, after all bonuses have been determined). The Guardians are at \$109 million.

“I’m not thinking about payroll,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “I’m thinking about our 26 guys and beating

the Mets. That’s it.”

Texas was sixth in payroll last year at \$241 million when it won the World Series against Arizona, which was 20th at \$129 million.

The only top spenders to win titles since the current luxury tax started have been the 2020 Dodgers, 2018 Red Sox and 2009 Yankees. Boston has won twice with a top-three payroll, as the second-biggest spender in 2004 and 2007, and the third-highest in 2013.

Seven of the last 21 champions have had payrolls outside the top 10: the 2021 Braves (14th), 2017 Astros (18th), 2015 Royals (13th), 2011 Cardinals (11th), 2010 Giants (11th), 2005 White Sox (13th) and 2003 Marlins (20th).

“As far as the payroll goes, ultimately it comes down to playing good baseball,” said San Diego manager Mike

Shildt, whose team ranked 15th and lost to Los Angeles in a five-game Division Series.

The Dodgers and Mets will be meeting in the postseason for the fourth time after the 1988 NLCS won by LA and the 2006 and ’15 NLDS won by New York. The 1988 matchup was marked by the ejection of Dodgers pitcher Jay Howell in Game 3 for having pine tar on his glove and the 2015 NLDS was marred by the Dodgers’ Chase Utley breaking a leg of shortstop Ruben Tejada while trying to break up a double play. MLB responded by banned rolling body blocks before the 2016 season.

After the Mets took two of three at Dodger Stadium this April, Los Angeles swept New York at Citi Field in late May, prompting a players-only meeting that sparked New York’s

turnaround from a 22-33 start.

Jack Flaherty starts the opener for the Dodgers and Kodai Senga for the Mets, in just his third appearance of an injury-filled season. Sean Manaea pitches Game 2 for New York, which earned three days off by beating Philadelphia in a four-game Division Series.

Dodgers All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman, playing with a sprained right ankle, was 4 for 14 with no RBIs in the NLDS.

Cleveland and the Yankees will be playing in the postseason for the seventh time. Cleveland won Division Series in 1997 and 2007, and it lost the 1998 ALCS, Division Series in 2017 and ’22 and the wild-card round in 2020. The Yankees were four outs from advancing in 1997 before Sandy Alomar’s tying homer off Mariano Rivera in Game

4. The Indians won the series in five games and knocked out New York, which had won the 1996 title and went on to win three more from 1998-2000.

Two years ago, Cleveland’s Josh Naylor angered Yankees fans with his rock-the-baby celebration of a home run off Gerrit Cole in Game 4.

New York won two of three at Cleveland in April and also at home in August. Having beaten Kansas City in a four-game ALDS, the Yankees could go with Carlos Rodón in the opener and Cole in Game 2. Cleveland, which defeated Detroit in Game 5 on Saturday, could go with Alex Cobb in Game 1.

“Obviously a tremendous bullpen,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “Athletic. They defend really well. They’re pretty balanced in their attack.”

Purdy throws for 3 TDs, 49ers beat Seahawks to move atop division

SEATTLE (AP)—Deebo Samuel didn't hesitate when he was asked what was working for the San Francisco 49ers.

"Brock Purdy," Samuel said.

Purdy threw for 255 yards and three touchdowns, and the Niners never trailed in a 36-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Thursday night.

Samuel had a 76-yard catch-and-run touchdown and finished with three catches for 102 yards for the defending NFC champions (3-3), who moved into a tie with Seattle (3-3) for first place in the NFC West after an uneven start to the season.

George Kittle added five receptions for 58 yards and two scores for the 49ers, who beat the Seahawks for a sixth straight time. Kyle Juszczyk had a late TD run, and he and Kittle both celebrated their scores by leaping into the stands to embrace their wives, who were sitting together in the first row.

Matthew Wright, who joined San Francisco earlier this week to replace injured kicker Jake Moody, had a trio of first half-field goals from 25, 41 and 35 yards.

"When everyone's on point and we're doing our thing, we're a hard team to beat," Purdy said.

Geno Smith passed for 312 yards and a touchdown but was intercepted twice, and the Seahawks lost their third straight after a 3-0 start under first-year coach Mike Macdonald.

"We're just not doing the things that good football teams do to win football games, and



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Seattle.

so we're going to attack it. We're going to take a breather here and really go back and dissect the heck out of this thing," Macdonald said.

Four days after blowing a 23-10 halftime lead and losing to division rival Arizona, San Francisco fended off a second-half challenge by Seattle, which got a boost from Laviska Shenault Jr.'s 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the third quarter.

After the 49ers punted, Smith led a 94-yard drive and Kenneth Walker III scored from 1 yard out to get Seattle within 23-17.

But Smith's second interception, this one by Renardo Green, set up Kittle's second TD of the game and a 29-17 lead for the Niners.

Smith found Tyler Lockett for a 9-yard scoring pass with 1:44 left to narrow the score to 29-24. San Francisco responded with

Isaac Guerendo's 76-yard dash downfield that led to Juszczyk's 6-yard TD run — a welcome conclusion for a team that has struggled to finish games.

"We talk about it all the time, and it's something we've had to get better at this season," Purdy said. "Coach always says, no matter what the score is, our offense should be able to put up points when our team needs it."

Seattle's struggles with the

run game continued, with the team finishing with 20 carries for 52 yards—32 by Walker.

Smith was intercepted on Seattle's opening drive. The Seahawks were on the San Francisco 25 when rookie safety Malik Mustapha pulled down a pass meant for Lockett.

Jordan Mason broke away for a 38-yard run on San Francisco's first series, but the drive ended with Wright's 25-yard field goal.

Samuel pulled down an early second-quarter pass from Purdy and shook off a defender for the 76-yard TD that put the 49ers up 10-0. Samuel became the first receiver in NFL history with 20 or more rushing touchdowns and 20-plus receiving scores.

Darrell Luter Jr. forced a fumble on the Seahawks' kick-off return and Tatum Bethune recovered on the Seattle 29. Wright capped that drive with a 41-yard field goal. Wright's third field goal gave the Niners a 16-0 lead late in the second quarter.

Aided by a pass interference call that put the ball on the 2-yard line, Smith threw three incomplete passes before the Seahawks settled for Jason Myers' 20-yard field goal as the first half expired.

Purdy found Kittle for a 10-yard touchdown to start the second half that made it 23-3.

"He's a baller," Purdy said of Kittle. "Obviously when you get the ball in his hands he can do what he can. He can break tackles. Just explosive for a tight end."

Mason, who left the game in the second quarter with a shoulder injury, later returned and finished with 73 yards on nine carries for the 49ers as he continues to fill in for the injured Christian McCaffrey.

Seahawks safety Rayshawn Jenkins said he's not frustrated—yet.

"We have the right guys in the room to get the job done. We just really have to be real and accountable. And as long as we do that, we should be OK," Jenkins said. "But it has to happen sooner than later."

Carter soared quickly and Billups started slowly, but there's more than one road to Hall of Fame

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP)—Vince Carter remembers the 2000 Slam Dunk Contest like it just happened, when he went from an up-and-comer to a full-fledged phenom.

He had been the NBA Rookie of the Year the season before with Toronto and now he was a first-time All-Star. But when he slammed the ball down in Oakland, leaping so high with such force that he put his arm through the rim, he had created perhaps the biggest highlight of a Hall of Fame career that would last another 20 years.

"What the dunk contest did for me, overnight it changed my life," Carter said Saturday during a press conference at Mohegan Sun Casino to discuss his induction.

Some players have careers like that, where they seem to hit the ground running from

the moment they are drafted and never stop—in Carter's case until he had played an NBA-record 22 seasons.

And then there are guys like Chauncey Billups.

The No. 3 pick in the 1997 draft was traded by Boston in his first season and had already played for four teams in his first four seasons.

There's more than one way to reach the Hall of Fame.

Billups eventually found his footing and on Sunday will join Carter as the headline names in the 13-member class that will be enshrined in Springfield, Massachusetts, not far from where his first NBA stop went so poorly that some labeled him a bust.

Billups, now the coach of the Portland Trail Blazers, wouldn't have changed a thing.

"It's just my journey," Billups said. "Everybody's is totally different and I say this all

the time. From the time that I was drafted to today being on this stage and being this weekend, like, it was a tough road for me. There was not a lot of traffic on that road."

Lakers defensive ace Michael Cooper, high-scoring Phoenix star Walter Davis and former Knicks champion Dick Barnett are the other NBA players in the class, with Seimone Augustus and Michele Timms making it from the WNBA. Jerry West is going in as a contributor—his third induction being enshrined as a player and with the 1960 U.S. Olympic team—along with Doug Collins and Pacers owner Herb Simon, and coaches Bo Ryan and Harley Redin from college and Charles Smith from high school.

Augustus will have one eye elsewhere as she readies for the ceremony. The Minnesota Lynx, the team she helped win

four WNBA championships, will be playing Game 2 of the WNBA Finals in New York on Sunday afternoon.

"I've gotten so many text messages like, 'We wanted to be there,'" said Augustus, who added that her response is: "Like, go out there and get Game 2 and hopefully bring home a championship."

Billups eventually got one, the NBA Finals MVP when the Detroit Pistons won the 2004 championship. He would make five All-Star teams with the Pistons and Denver Nuggets, but that was after the rocky start to his career.

There were the 51 games in Boston before a trade to Toronto, with short stays in Denver and Minnesota preceding his arrival in Detroit. There were questions about what kind of point guard he was — or even if he was really a point guard.

"It just didn't translate fast

enough, but I never believed what they said about me," Billups said. "I just kept fighting, kept scrapping and it turned around."

Carter never got a ring like Billups or Cooper — who won five of them with the Lakers — but it wasn't his primary motivation as he kept playing late in his career, noting some of the teams he had joined weren't serious contenders.

"I played the game because I love it and it wasn't about chasing money and honestly it wasn't about chasing rings," Carter said.

He had hoped to play 15 years in the NBA, but once he got there said he'd play a couple more years. He ended up becoming the only player in league history to appear in four different decades.

The only reason the dunk contest championship wasn't the undisputed highlight of his career is because he had an-

other entry later in 2000, when he soared over France's Frederic Weis for a rim-shaking slam while helping the U.S. win an Olympic gold medal.

He had been envisioning his chance to slam for years, staying up late to watch and record All-Star Saturday nights. He was so amped up for his opportunity that he treated it like a real game day, taking his usual afternoon nap.

Then he delivered when it was time to put on a show, saying that he had never even tried the arm-through-the-rim slam until that night.

"When I got that opportunity, I looked into the stands and I was on another level as far as just excitement and hype for the moment," Carter said. "I felt the routine that I had the night before wasn't going to win and I took a chance, and we're here today talking about the good because it could have gone bad."

Nadal will retire from tennis after next month’s Davis Cup finals

MADRID (AP)—Rafael Nadal is retiring from professional tennis at age 38, he announced Thursday, after winning 22 Grand Slam titles—14 at the French Open—during an unprecedented era he shared with rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Nadal has competed infrequently the past two seasons because of injuries and said next month’s Davis Cup finals will mark his farewell to the sport. He had hip surgery in 2023 and entered just two of the past eight major tournaments.

“The reality is that it has been some difficult years, these last two, especially. I don’t think I have been able to play without limitations,” Nadal said in a video message. “It is obviously a difficult decision, one that has taken me some time to make. But in this life, everything has a beginning and an end.”

Nadal’s unrelenting, physical style of play—every point pursued as though it were his last, sprinting and sliding into place for that high-bouncing bullwhip of a lefty forehand—made him one of



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his victory over Marton Fucsovics of Hungary during the men's singles tennis competition, at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 28, 2024, in Paris, France, as he has announced he will retire from tennis at age 38 following the Davis Cup finals in November.

the greats of the game and the unquestioned King of Clay.

His record 14 French Open championships are more than anyone, man or woman, won at any one of the four

In a result that symbolized where things stood for his body, and career, he exited in the French Open first round this year, a straight-set loss to eventual runner-up Alexander Zverev.

Nadal returned to that site in southwest Paris for the Summer Olympics, where he lost to old rival Djokovic in the second round of singles and reached the quarterfinals of men’s doubles with Carlos Alcaraz. Nadal hasn’t played since. His goodbye will also come while representing Spain in the Davis Cup at Malaga.

“Your legacy won’t be matched,” Alcaraz, who is widely seen as Nadal’s heir in Spanish tennis, said Thursday. “I have enjoyed you and I will miss you very much when you retire after the Davis Cup.”

Soccer greats Cristiano Ronaldo and Kylian Mbappé were among stars from the sports world also paying tribute to Nadal.

In addition to his French Open triumphs, Nadal won four trophies at the U.S. Open and two apiece at

Wimbledon and the Australian Open, giving him a career Grand Slam.

“It is the appropriate time to put an end to a career that has been long and much more successful than I could have ever imagined,” Nadal said.

His last pair of major titles arrived in 2022, at Melbourne and Paris, pushing him ahead of Federer, who held the men’s record of 20 Grand Slam titles when he announced his retirement at age 41. Federer bid adieu in late 2022 by teaming with Nadal in a doubles match at the Laver Cup.

Both have since been surpassed by Djokovic, 37, who is up to 24 majors.

So much of Nadal’s success was seen, fairly or not, through the prism of his encounters with Federer and Djokovic. The tennis world, and plenty outside of it, were consumed with the debate over which was most deserving of the “GOAT”—“Greatest Of All-Time”—moniker. The world, tennis or otherwise, was fascinated by their matchups, their differing styles and personalities.

ACS

From page 16

division, the Lady Torchbearers took the gold home with 14 points. They went 2-for-4 in the qualifiers and solidified the gold in the championships with their first place finish.

Silver went to the Lady Geckos at 33 points, while the Lady Dolphins were bronze at 42 points.

In the middle school girls division in the 2-mile, two-lap course, the Lady Geckos took it all the way home with a sweep of all the qualifiers and the gold medal finish in the championships. They wrapped it up with 14 points, while Hopwood Middle School Hilitais took the silver

with 31. Bronze was Dandan Middle School Tottots at 61 points.

For the middle school boys division, the Tottots won gold with 24 points. They went 3-for-4 in the qualifiers and finished strong with their gold finish. Silver was SIS at 41, and bronze was Chacha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus at 62.

For the youngest runners in their 1-mile, one-lap course, Brilliant Star School girls started the season strong and ended it stronger with a gold in the championships. They garnered 27 points, while silver was SIS at 60. Mount Carmel School settled for bronze with 63 points.

In the boys division, it was an upset as Garapan Elementary School Mallards put on their best running shoes

to grab the gold from BSS who swept all four qualifiers. The Mallards had 47 points, while BSS had 66. Bronze was San Vicente Elementary School Canaries with 69.

Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster and coach and meet director, said that the turnout this season was amazing. “We saw an all-time high of student athletes and many, many fans from the school communities. Beyond that, the performance has seen incredible improvement. We have five athletes running sub-19 and [Victor] Nash Santos is close to breaking the 18-minute mark.” With that, he said it’s an improvement in times over the years.

He added, “Congratulations to all of the student athletes we had this year. I am pretty sure we have set records for

most participants. And also to everyone who set a PR during the season.”

He then said, “I would like to thank PSS Athletics, [Northern Marianas Athletics], Run Saipan, Saipan International School, and the Independent Schools Association for hosting two meets, the many student volunteers who have supported us, and the start line team of Jacoby Winkfield, Chad Taflinger, and Nick Brennfleck. Without the support of all of this outstanding team, none of this would have been possible. Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the coaches and athletes on a very successful season. Great job everyone!”

Results of the individual awards will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

AYUYUS

From page 16

to the top where they met the top seeded Ayuyus after having already played three previous games on a hot day. By the time they got to the finals, they were exhausted but still played their hearts out.

With the Ayuyus coming into the finals fresh, they took advantage quickly and scored two runs in the first inning for a 2-0 game. The Bucks’ Peter John Manglona then cut the lead in half after he scored at the top of the second, but that was as close as they could get to KHS.

At the bottom of the second, the floodgates opened and KHS’ strong offense that kept them dominant in the regular season came to life once again. They clobbered RHI pitcher Dontae Spearman with back-to-back hits that all resulted in runs.

When the dust settled, the bottom of the order from Kallen Seilder, Devin Yumul, Ernie Teigita, back to the top of the lineup—Javen Camacho and King—all scored for a 7-2 game.

The third inning was even more of a struggle for the Bucks’ pitching and defense as KHS’ bats made contact after contact with the ball. After just one run scored for the Bucks by Victor Barcinas, seven more runs came in for the Ayuyus to make it 14-2.

It was all KHS from there as eight more runs would score and the game was called to end early on run-mercy ruling, for a 22-2 final.

KHS’ roster includes Ernie Teigita, Justin Camacho, Myles Remoket, Devin Yumul, Benigno Sablan, Willy Joe Lieto, Jarrod Muna, Anthony Kubo, Ayden Magofna, Ethan Magofna, Jon Pinaula, Nathaniel Marcil, Francis Tomokane, Andrey Iguel, Achilles Evangelista, Fabio Norita,

Christopher Pangelinan, Kallan Seilder, and Javen Camacho. Their head coach was Anthony Salas and assistant coach was Darion Jones.

The Bucks were Victor Barcinas, Ryan Manglona, Dontae Spearman, Peter John Manglona, Taytum Jacob, Perry Mesngon, Edward Kapileo, Titus Hocog, Kaykoa Hocog, Damian Atalig, Justan Reyes, Brian Cabrera, and Malcolm Atalig. Their head coach was E. Orilla and assistant coach was Fidel Manglona.

Third place went to Mount Carmel School Knights after they lost to the Bucks via walk off, 4-6.

Last school year, KHS also took home the championship for the Inaugural PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Slow Pitch Softball League.

Anthony Salas, KHS head coach, said after the championships, “we feel good. The kids worked hard this year. A lot of them were here last year

so it was nice to have them out again this year. They all understand what it takes to win, so it was good.”

As for the competition, he said, “It was good. I think high school sports [are] always fun. It’s nice to see our neighboring islands Tinian and Rota visit and play against them. It’s not baseball, but the kids are doing 110% in whatever they choose to do so it’s nice to see.”

He said the KHS team has seven seniors in their roster so next year will be a little tough, but “We have a lot of underclassmen that are playing in the varsity team so hopefully they take charge next year.”

On what he thinks of the league, he said, “It’s nice to have the kids on the field. I grew up with a baseball background so I want baseball as the priority. We’re trying to get the youth hopefully in baseball and where the kids can thrive in a sport that they could do outside of high school.”

HMS

From page 16

still anybody’s game.

However, just a minute later, the Tatagas’ Prescilla Ruak recorded their third goal for a 3-2 advantage. Then, the struggle for possession

ensued as both teams tried to get the best of the other and notch the win.

The Lancherus fought hard, but another open chance that TMS’ Jade Pascual took advantage of in the 46th minute proved to be the deathblow as they now led, 4-2. Despite COVMS’ best efforts, they couldn’t put up the tying or lead-taking numbers as the

Tatagas celebrated their advancement to the semifinals after time expired.

In the finals standings, HMS led with a 4-1-0 win-draw-loss record; SIS was at 3-2-0; DMS was at 3-1-1; TMS and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School had a 1-1-3 record each, but TMS scored more goals at eight to FMS’ five; and Chacha

Ocean Middle School lost all five of their games.

Catch the action tomorrow at the NMISTC as the semis start between HMS and TMS at 4pm, while SIS takes on DMS at 5:10pm. The championship game is at 5:30pm, and the third place game is at 4pm on Thursday, Oct. 22.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES							
NFL STANDINGS							
AMERICAN CONFERENCE							
East							
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	142	106	
Miami	2	3	0	.400	60	113	
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.400	93	85	
New England	1	4	0	.200	62	102	
South							
Houston	4	1	0	.800	102	114	
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	119	122	
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	79	90	
Jacksonville	1	4	0	.200	97	143	
North							
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	147	126	
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	92	73	
Cincinnati	1	4	0	.200	140	145	
Cleveland	1	4	0	.200	79	121	
West							
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	118	85	
Denver	3	2	0	.600	96	73	
L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500	68	50	
Las Vegas	2	3	0	.400	96	131	
NATIONAL CONFERENCE							
East							
Washington	4	1	0	.800	155	115	
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	117	121	
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	86	96	
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	.400	89	104	
South							
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	111	115	
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	127	114	
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	140	96	
Carolina	1	4	0	.200	83	165	
North							
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	139	76	
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	104	82	
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	113	85	
Green Bay	3	2	0	.600	128	108	
West							
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	162	130	
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	146	150	
Arizona	2	3	0	.400	120	129	
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	.200	94	139	



**Guardians
down Tigers
to reach AL
Championship
Series**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Nadal will retire
from tennis
after next
month's Davis
Cup finals**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

2024 CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

ACS, SIS, DMS, GES win twice

» **BSS golden too**

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was a bitter-sweet moment as all qualified cross-country runners were up bright and early to take on the last early morning course of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025—the championship showdown at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.

Runners from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota converged for the chance at the podium in team and individual standings—with another season of expected sweeps, but with some upsets too. At the end of the race that was met with a drizzle of rain, team scores weren't tallied completely and no official times were calculated yet, but individual awards were presented.

Cross-country is like golf in



Elementary school division runners sprint out of the starting line during the championships of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.

that the lowest score wins.

For the high school boys division in the 3-mile, two laps around the greens, Agape Christian School Torchbearers bagged the gold with 20 points. They swept all four qualifiers and wrapped it up with the championship first place finish.

Silver was Saipan International School Geckos with 36 points, while Marianas High School Dolphins was bronze at 40 points.

For the high school girls

See **ACS** on Page 15



Middle school division runners sprint out of the starting line during the championships of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.



High school division runners sprint out of the starting line during the championships of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 at the Saipan Vegas Country Club last Saturday morning.

HMS, SIS, DMS, TMS in girls soccer semis



Tanapag Middle School's Aaliyah Fatialofa, right, is entangled with a Dandan Middle School player as they fight for possession during one of their games in the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Girls Middle School Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The playoffs stage is set with defending champions Hopwood Middle School Hilitais, Saipan International School Geckos, Dandan Middle School Tottots, and Tanapag Middle School Tatagas as the Final Four teams in the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Girls Middle School Interscholastic Soccer League.

The Tatagas punched the last semis ticket after their win over Chacha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus, 4-2, last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Lancherus struck

first, surprising the Tatagas with a goal just five minutes into the game by Rica Taitano. This gave the Lancherus the confidence and drive but it was short lived as just four minutes later, the Tatagas' Chelsea Santos responded swiftly to equalize it, 1-1.

As the game progressed, the Lancherus defense showed signs of strain. The Tatagas then seized control in the 25th minute when Santos once again fired a shot past the Lancherus' keeper—giving them a 2-1 advantage.

It wasn't over yet as the Lancherus' slotted an equalizer in the 29th and it was

See **HMS** on Page 15

Ayuyus drub Bucks, 22-2, for fastpitch title

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The undefeated Kagman High School Ayuyus ended the PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 with a championship title as they drubbed Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School Bucks, 22-2, in the finals at the Capital Hill Softball Field last Saturday.

The Bucks didn't fly all this way just to leave empty handed and climbed their way

See **AYUYUS** on Page 15



Champion team Kagman High School Ayuyus and runner-up Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School Bucks pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 at the Capitol Hill Softball Field last Saturday.